

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 13, 2010

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 5, 2010

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2009—10 REGULAR SESSION

**ASSEMBLY BILL**

**No. 2072**

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**Introduced by Assembly Member Mendoza**

February 18, 2010

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An act to add Section 124121 to the Health and Safety Code, relating to public health.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 2072, as amended, Mendoza. Hearing screening: resources and services.

Existing law, the Newborn and Infant Hearing Screening, Tracking, and Intervention Act, requires every general acute care hospital with licensed perinatal services to offer every newborn a hearing screening test for the identification of hearing loss, as specified, and provide written information on the availability of community resources and services for children with hearing loss to the parents of those who are diagnosed with a hearing loss.

Existing law, the California Early Start Intervention Services Act, commonly known as the Early Start program, provides various early intervention services for infants and toddlers who have disabilities to enhance their development and to minimize the potential for developmental delays.

This bill would also require that parents of a newborn or infant diagnosed with a hearing loss ~~receive~~ *be provided* written *or electronic* information ~~on all~~ *specified* communication options for children with hearing loss by an audiologist or other related professional at a followup

appointment after diagnosis with a hearing loss, and by the Early Start Program ~~when a child enters the program and when a child is referred to the program by a state agency~~ upon initial contact with the parents of a newborn or infant newly diagnosed with a hearing loss. It would also specify that *neither the state nor an Early Start Program provider shall not incur the cost of ~~or implement~~ implementing this bill.*

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: no. State-mandated local program: no.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

1 SECTION 1. Section 124121 is added to the Health and Safety  
2 Code, to read:

3 124121. (a) Parents of all newborns and infants diagnosed  
4 with a hearing loss shall also be provided written *or electronic*  
5 information on ~~an~~ *American Sign Language (ASL), Total*  
6 *Communication, Cued Speech, and Listening and Spoken Language*  
7 communication options for children with hearing loss, including,  
8 but not limited to, information about deaf and hard-of-hearing  
9 organizations, agencies and early intervention centers, and  
10 educational programs. The information shall be provided:

11 (1) By an audiologist or other related professional at a followup  
12 appointment after diagnosis with a hearing loss.

13 (2) By the Early Start Program, provided for pursuant to the  
14 California Early Intervention Services Act (Title 14 (commencing  
15 with Section 95000) of the Government Code) ~~when a newborn~~  
16 ~~and infant enters the program and when the newborn and infant is~~  
17 ~~referred to the program by a state agency.~~ *upon initial contact with*  
18 *the parents of a newborn or infant newly diagnosed with a hearing*  
19 *loss.*

20 (b) ~~The state shall not incur any cost, nor shall the state be~~  
21 ~~involved in~~ *Neither the state nor an Early Start Program provider*  
22 *shall incur any cost for the implementation of this section.*

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